

years and anti-racism measures discussed at the September 2020 Joint Meeting I hosted in my capacity as Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission with my European colleagues “Reinforcing U.S.-EU Parliamentary Coordination to Combat Racism and Systemic Discrimination.”

Recommendations from these efforts have included the implementation of EU-wide anti-racism strategies; European Black History Month and Remembrance Day for Victims of Colonialism and Enslavement; a fund for Black European led initiatives to address continuing disparities and discrimination and support for empowerment initiatives; European-wide strategies for the inclusion of People of African Descent; and support for transatlantic exchanges on common issues of racial prejudice and discrimination.

The need for recognition of Black populations in Europe became clear more than a decade ago when I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, “The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics”, where we learned that the situation in Europe is very similar to the one in the United States. A number of these similarities were most recently highlighted by global racial justice protests following the murder of George Floyd.

While the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to enslavement, colonization, military deployments, voluntary or forced migration, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, or educational and other professional exchanges, the story of Europeans of African Descent and Black Europeans still remains largely untold—rendering many of their past and present contributions to the very fabric of Europe unseen or forgotten, which is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that when we gather in the years to come to review the efforts of the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent, we will not only speak of how our efforts resulted in our respective nations publicly recognizing the injustices and long-term impact of slavery and colonialism, but also of how our societies reconciled these issues in a manner that ensured equal opportunity, access, and justice for all people of African descent.

I am greatly encouraged by recent Executive Orders from President Biden focused on equity and justice in this country, and see the adoption of this resolution on Black Europeans as well as a bill I have introduced calling for the creation of a State Department Office on Global African Descent Affairs as complementary to the President’s domestic efforts. I urge you to join me in supporting this resolution recognizing Black Europeans and other efforts in support of achieving racial justice.

#### SUPERMARKET EMPLOYEE DAY PROCLAMATION

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation. On

behalf of the people of Wisconsin I, MARK POCAN, United States Representative of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2021, as Supermarket Employee Day.

Whereas, there are nearly six million supermarket employees in the United States; and

Whereas, in Wisconsin there are 148,959 food retail jobs that generate \$15,630,033,800 in economic activity; and

Whereas, supermarket employees provide all Americans with access to safe, healthy, and affordable food; and

Whereas, supermarket employees work to enhance the health and well-being of each customer; and

Whereas, supermarket employees contribute and volunteer countless hours in their communities; and

Whereas, supermarket employees face unprecedented challenges keeping grocery shelves stocked during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas, supermarket employees have and continue to meet and exceed these challenges, while displaying courage, compassion, dedication, and leadership, as well as exemplifying customer service and community outreach; and

Whereas, the need for supermarket employees is greater than ever because of current and growing consumer demands as well as their reputation for excellence; now therefore I, MARK POCAN, United States Representative of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2021 as Supermarket Employee Day and ask all citizens to join in honoring our Supermarket Heroes.

#### REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2021

**HON. GRACE MENG**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2021. This bill will ensure women and girls in refugee camps are able to access bathrooms without fear of violence.

Refugees awaiting resettlement are fleeing conditions like war, violence, and persecution. While many hope to find safety in temporary refugee camps, violence and insecurity can also follow, especially for women and girls. Women are at a greater risk of experiencing sexual assault and violence if they do not have separate bathrooms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees are even more vulnerable and even more in need of secure access to sanitation.

The measure would remedy this problem by ensuring recipients of U.S. aid provide safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women and girls, and vulnerable populations.

Women and girls deserve and need sanitation facilities that are safe and free from harm. It is disheartening that today’s refugee camps create conditions that allow sexual assault and violence to occur. This is why I am leading this legislation with Congressman ZELDIN to

ensure women, girls, and other vulnerable populations have access to safe and secure restrooms. Last Congress, this bill unanimously passed the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to support this measure so that it can finally be signed into law.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ADAM STEELE

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Adam Steele on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough’s newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Steele in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Steele for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

#### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE ARIZONA INFORMANT

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Arizona Informant, a newspaper which for the past fifty years has reported on news that directly impacts the Black community across the Phoenix Valley. The Arizona Informant now reaches 100,000 weekly readers and is the only Black owned weekly newspaper in our state.

The Arizona Informant started with an investment of just \$1 in 1971 by brothers, Clovis Campbell Sr. and Charles Campbell, who noticed there was a lack of coverage on issues affecting the Black community in Arizona. Clovis, the first Black Arizona State Senator, and Charles, an educator with a doctorate in higher education administration, were pillars of the Black community in Phoenix whose impact across the Valley is still felt today.

Still family owned and operated, the Arizona Informant has stayed true to its mission of bringing to the forefront stories of accomplishment and achievement in the Black community. The protests that erupted after George Floyd last summer and the ongoing struggle for racial justice have shown that the work of the Arizona Informant is needed now as much, if not more, than it was fifty years ago.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I am proud to be able to recognize and uplift the Arizona Informant. I wish to congratulate the Arizona Informant on fifty years of ‘Recording Black History Every Week’ and thank them for their continued work.